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April 7, 2020

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San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Consider COVID-19 Actions
Equipment availability, small business assistance, new testing and homeless support discussed

STOCKTON – The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors met today to consider the following action items related to the COVID-19 outbreak:

Update on COVID 19 Pandemic in San Joaquin County

Dan Burch, the San Joaquin County EMS Agency Administrator and Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator, reported that the County currently has the necessary equipment, hospital beds and staff to serve current COVID-19 patients. The EMS Agency is currently working with an assortment of supply vendors to acquire additional equipment and expand current capacity to meet the upcoming surge of COVID-19 patients. Burch emphasized that while there are ebbs and flows of medical supplies, the County will be able to meet the equipment needs for health care workers and first responders during the expected surge with existing equipment and purchasing and procurement processes in place through local, state and federal resources. He stated that 76 percent of the County's total ventilators are still available.

Mr. Burch also discussed measures the EMS Agency has put in place to support health care workers who are at high risk of being exposed to COVID-19. The EMS Agency has created a process to notify prehospital care service providers (EMTs, ambulance, public safety, fire personnel) when they have had contact with patients who test positive for COVID-19. They also coordinated with the SJGH Clinics Chief Medical Officer to create an opportunity for cities, fire districts, and ambulance services to contract with the SJGH Occupational Health Clinic to assist prehospital staff with COVID-19 exposure lab testing, counseling and health guidance.

Modifications to Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to Assist Small Businesses in San Joaquin County

Steve Lantsberger, Economic Development Director from the San Joaquin County Employment & Economic Development Department told the Board that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the mandatory closure of non-essential businesses resulting in mass layoffs and unemployment claim filings; cash flow interruptions; lack of working capital; and inability to fund rent/mortgage, payrolls, utilities and debt service. He said many of the RLF's existing borrowers are unable to make their required loan payments and urgently need temporary relief. He also highlighted other federal resources including those provided by the Small Business Administration (SBA) that offers loans and grants to impacted companies that meet certain eligibility requirements.

Lantsberger requested and received Board approval to temporarily amend the existing RLF administrative plan, relax and suspend certain provisions and loan payment requirements as well as create and fund new loan program called the Emergency Business Support Fund (EBSF). The purpose of the EBSF is to alleviate potential loan defaults, maintain key personnel, provide short-term cash infusion thereby enabling San Joaquin County companies to focus their attention on re-starting business operations once the crisis ends. The new EBSF is initially capitalized with \$600,000 and is available to any San Joaquin County business that has been negatively impacted by the pandemic

and is need of short-term working capital to maintain key personnel, make rent/mortgage payments, or meet other critical obligations to ensure business viability. Companies that have attempted to access the SBA programs only to learn that existing funding caps have already been reached are encouraged to contact the RLF. More information on the EBSF or RLF can be obtained by contacting Steven Lantsberger @slantsberger@sjcworknet.org.

Office of Emergency Services Update on Accelerated COVID-19 Testing

Shellie Lima, Deputy Director General Services - Emergency Operations in the Office of Emergency Services informed the Board about a “one-stop-shop” of COVID-19 resources available to County residents at www.SJReady.org. She also discussed the channels County staff are using to widely publicize the website.

Lima also reported a new partnership with the State of California to establish a community-based COVID-19 testing program with support from Project Baseline, to allow anyone with symptoms to qualify for free testing in the County. The testing will be run by a private clinical Research Company called Verily - an Alphabet Company - and can complete 200 tests per day. To be tested, patients go online, complete a health screening and the site then determines whether they are eligible for the test. For people who qualify, the site will provide them an appointment. Tests will be conducted south of San Joaquin General Hospital in French Camp.

Lima noted that, to date, approximately \$5,229,424 has been spent to fight the COVID-19 pandemic by San Joaquin County and that a majority of that spending should be reimbursable by the FEMA and the federal government.

Project Room Key Authorization to Support Homeless Individuals at Risk for COVID-19

Adam Cheshire, Homeless Coordinator for San Joaquin County, reported that Project Room Key is expected to be operational very soon. The program will provide housing to homeless individuals who have tested positive, who have been exposed or are in a high-risk category for COVID-19. It will utilize 140 units for qualifying homeless residents who are currently living in shelters for the next 90 days.

Temporary Closure to Public of Lovelace Road Transfer Station and North County Recycling Center and Landfill

The Board retroactively approved the temporary closure of the Lovelace Road Transfer Station and North County Recycling Center and Landfill except for commercially collected garbage in order to uphold the “Stay at Home” order and protect the health and safety of the public and County staff. The Board also retroactively approved the temporary closure of the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Foothill Landfill and Tracy Disposal Material Recovery Facility are still open to the public and people are encouraged to learn more at www.sjgov.org/solidwaste/.

“Based on everything the Board heard today it appears that many of the steps the County has been taking since the COVID-19 pandemic began are starting to make a real impact in reducing the damage caused by the virus throughout the County,” said Kathy Miller, Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors. “We have essential equipment and testing available because residents are following instructions to stay at home and prevent the spread of the virus, resulting in a projected delay in peak cases. We have secured housing for some of our most vulnerable populations. We are providing the necessary funding and support to small businesses who were forced to shut their doors. And, we are disseminating the critical information our community needs to fight and reduce the spread of this deadly disease. If we do our job well, then folks may say we overreacted. If we don't, they'll say we were underprepared.”

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